Community Corrections

Mission

To foster the development and operation of programs and advisory boards that enhance coordination of the local criminal and juvenile justice systems and diversion of non-violent offenders from incarceration.

Summary of Activities

Community Corrections programs offer an intermediate level of sanction for criminal offenders, between full incarceration and release. Programs in Indiana are implemented at the county level, with state administration provided by the **Department of Correction** (DOC). There are currently sixty-six counties with community corrections programs.

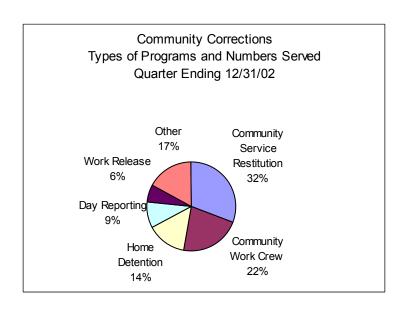
Local programs are operated as independent county agencies by not-for-profit agencies under contract to the county, or as a division of the local probation or sheriff's department. Common components of local programs include house arrest with electronic monitoring, work release, community and restitution service, road crew work detail, day reporting, and victim / offender mediation. Counties, or a combination of counties, are the only local entities that are eligible to receive state funding for community corrections programs. Participating counties must establish a community corrections advisory board. The board's main duty is to formulate the local community corrections plan, the basis for receiving funding from the state, and to apply for financial aid from the DOC. The board also reports annually to the county fiscal body with an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program and recommends improvement, modification, or discontinuance.

The DOC is required to adopt rules concerning the content of community corrections plans, the distribution of funds, and minimum standards for program operation. The DOC is also responsible for providing consultation and technical assistance, training for corrections personnel and advisory board members, informing counties of money appropriated, and providing an approved training curriculum for community corrections field officers.

External Factors

Statutory sentencing limitations are a significant external factor affecting community corrections, because they limit the discretion of judges to direct offenders toward more cost-effective community corrections programs. As additional "mandatory minimum" prison sentences are established for certain offences, such as DUI and sex crimes, the pool of offenders eligible for community corrections programs is reduced.

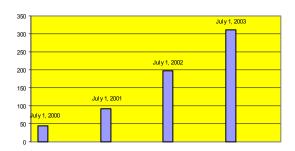
Evaluation and Accomplishments



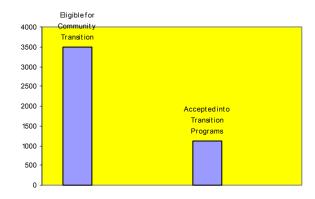
The number of counties participating in community corrections programs has increased from 19 in 1986 to 66 today. On December 31, 2002, there were 16,330 adult offenders on community corrections programs with 43%, or 7,022, being felons. It is conservatively estimated that 50% of the 7,022 felons, or 3,511, would have been incarcerated in DOC facilities had it not been for local community corrections programs, and this has meant a savings of 1,281,515 bed days. At a per diem cost of \$57.44, the cost to Indiana taxpayers would be \$73,610,221. With a community corrections base budget of \$25,325,000, the net savings is \$48,285,221. The total cost of operating local community corrections programs is \$47,953,470 with 49.68% coming from user fees and local appropriations.

In addition, as of December 31,2002, there were 2,625 juveniles being served with 65%, or 1,706, being a part of the target population. The target population for juvenile Community Corrections programs is nonviolent youthful offenders who have been determined by a judge to be delinquent for an offense that if committed by an adult, would be a felony or class "A" misdemeanor.





Community Transition Eligibility and Acceptance FY 2003



In order to save costs for prison facilities in November 2001, a Technical Rule Violation Center was opened in Indianapolis to serve the needs of both community corrections and probation technical violators. The male facility, with a capacity of 110, is currently at capacity with a small waiting list. This facility focuses on assessments and the development of individualized case management plans complete with intensive cognitive behavioral programming with a stay of 90-180 days.

Plans for the Biennium

- 1) Implement only those program components that have been found through research to be effective, such as Day Reporting.
- 2) Provide assessment and case management for offenders and emphasize treatment of offender needs rather than surveillance.
- 3) Target those populations at greatest risk for incarceration and provide preventive and intervention services.

